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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of two notes verbales, dated 21 October 1998 and 12 January 1999, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran concerning the unlawful seizure of an Iranian cargo boat and detention of its crew of 11 Iranian nationals in the Persian Gulf by Iraqi military forces (see annexes).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Note verbale dated 21 October 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following:

Relevant Iranian authorities have reported that, on 10 September 1998 at 1100 hours, Iraqi forces seized an Iranian cargo boat, with the motor registration number 15636, which was on its routine and traditional route to Kuwait around Khur Abd-Allah before Bubian island, and transferred all 11 members of the crew to an unknown place.

The names and particulars of the crew are as follows:

		Seamanship ID Number
1.	Qasem Halafi Dousari	(captain) 0115004
2.	Karim Hayati	(crew) 0200684
3.	Majid Mansouri	(crew) 0110314
4.	Seead Fakher Purshebar Hashemi	(crew) 0109432
5.	Abud Ajman	(crew) 0115278
6.	Rahim Khalafi Dousari	(crew) 0131937
7.	Hasan Khademi	(crew) 0123078
8.	Yaqub Khamisi	(crew) 0114375
9.	Abd-al-Zahra Khalafi Dousari	(crew) 0113651
10.	Ali Halafi Dousari	(crew) 0119692
11.	Karim Khalafi Dousari	(crew) 012076

While expressing its strong objection to this irresponsible act by the Iraqi military forces in capturing Iranian nationals, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically requests that the Government of the Republic of Iraq promptly release the above-mentioned Iranian nationals, and that it provide the necessary training and instruction to its military forces to comply with international rules and principles and avoid any action which would disturb order and security in the region and disrupt the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

It would be highly appreciated if that Embassy would report this issue to the relevant authorities of the Government of the Republic of Iraq as soon as possible, and subsequently inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the result.

Annex II

Note verbale dated 12 January 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and, pursuant to the note verbale dated 21 October 1998, concerning the seizure of an Iranian cargo boat and the arrest of its crew of 11, has the honour to state the following:

In spite of the continuous efforts of this Ministry and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad, regrettably the relevant authorities of the Government of the Republic of Iraq have neither taken any measures to release the Iranian seamen and their boat, nor have they officially announced the reason for taking them into custody.

Once again, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its objection to such acts which contravene the customary and treaty principles of international navigation, and emphatically requests that the Government of the Republic of Iraq take immediate measures to release the Iranian nationals and their boat and to compensate the damages incurred.

The responsibility for such acts should naturally be borne by the Government of the Republic of Iraq and they will impact negatively on the process of normalization of relations between the two countries.